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course will feel more interest to continue study and will accomplish more and better work in later courses.

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THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION¹

THE St. Louis session of the American Medical Association was an unqualified success. From the scientific point of view, and from the effect in the promotion of a closer and more harmonious organization of the profession, as well as of social interest, little more could have been desired. The registration was a little over four thousand, a number exceeded only twice—at Boston and at Chicago.

In the scientific interest and in the earnestness and fulness of the discussions on the topics presented the section meetings equaled or surpassed those of any previous session. Every section had profitable meetings and the attendance in each was good. Especially notable were the symposiums in the Section on Preventive Medicine and Public Health on hookworm, pellagra and typhoid fever, and in the Section on Pathology and Physiology on cancer—subjects which, aside from their interest to the profession, have particular interest for the public, because of the widespread morbidity and mortality which they cause, especially in the instances of typhoid fever and cancer. Indeed, it is interesting to note the many points at which the papers throughout the whole program of this session touched the public directly in the matter of hygiene, sanitation and prevention. It is a reflection of the wide-spread interest of the public in what is being done in medicine. In many respects the Section on Preventive Medicine was the most interesting of the session. Cancer, with its frightful mortality and increasing prevalence, was probably the most prominent subject of the session, being considered in one or more of its aspects in almost every section, far outshadowing tu-

berculosis in this respect. In some of the other sections symposiums on diabetes, the infectious diseases and eclampsia, with the discussions, served to clear the atmosphere about many mooted questions. There were many other interesting features of the scientific program, but space forbids further mention of them here.

The meetings of the house of delegates were harmonious throughout. Each succeeding year the reference committees are doing more and more work, making it possible to investigate thoroughly all the various propositions that come before the house; and thus the house is able to accomplish much more, and to do the work in a deliberate, satisfactory manner. Of the important things done by the house of delegates, one was the creation of a new Section on Genito-urinary Diseases, as petitioned for by many members doing work in that line. Another was the creation of the Council on Health and Public Instruction, which is to have charge of the work formerly done by several overlapping committees, covering such matters as preventive medicine, medical legislation, economics, public instruction in medical, sanitary and hygienic questions, etc. The council will organize complete machinery to facilitate the attainment of these objects.

Any impression that there was the slightest lack of harmony in the organization was dispelled by the work of the house of delegates and by the spirit shown in the daily work; and any attempted disparagement of the aims and purposes of the American Medical Association was silenced by the splendid statement of them contained in the address of President Welch at the general meeting. That the public correctly understands these aims and endorses them was evinced in the admirable address of Governor Hadley and the other gentlemen who spoke at the general meeting.

THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF DENISON UNIVERSITY

At Denison University, Granville, Ohio, the new astronomical observatory, presented by Mr. Ambrose Swasey, of Cleveland, was opened

¹ From the *Journal* of the Association.

on June 15. In the afternoon an address on "The Contribution of Astronomy to General Culture" was given by Edwin B. Frost, of the Yerkes Observatory, and in the evening an illustrated lecture on "The Revelations of the Telescope" was delivered by John A. Brashear, of Pittsburgh.

The observatory is a very beautiful structure of white marble, and its interior finish is in excellent harmony with the elegant exterior. The principal instrument is a nine-inch telescope, with object-glass by the J. A. Brashear Company, with the latest style of mounting by Warner & Swasey, complete in every detail, and with a filar micrometer by the same firm, of which the donor is vice-president. A fine four-inch combined transit and zenith-telescope is also provided, together with a chronograph, all by the same makers. The equipment also includes two Riefler clocks, for mean and for sidereal time, and a sidereal clock for the dome. The observatory is very well situated upon a high ridge commanding the horizon, and is admirably adapted for its purpose, principally educational, but the equipment is also sufficient for useful contributions to research.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has conferred the Janssen Prize, consisting of a gold medal, on Director W. W. Campbell, of the Lick Observatory, University of California.

DR. JOHN BENJAMIN MURPHY, professor of surgery in Northwestern University, has been elected president of the American Medical Association, for the meeting to be held next year at Los Angeles.

THE University of Pittsburgh has conferred the doctorate of science on Professor H. L. Fairchild, professor of geology in the University of Rochester.

DR. OSCAR BOLZA, professor of mathematics in the University of Chicago since its establishment eighteen years ago, has been made non-resident professor, and will live in Freiburg, Germany. He will receive his regular salary.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a bronze relief portrait of Dr. William Osler has been placed in Osler Hall of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, Baltimore. It is by F. C. V. de Vernon, a French sculptor, and is an enlargement of a small one made in 1903 by the same artist and now in the Johns Hopkins Medical Library. It will be placed by the side of the Osler portrait by Corner on the north wall, and on the other side will be hung the Welch medallion.

AFTER nearly continuous service of nine years in the American Museum of Natural History, Director Hermon C. Bumpus has been granted a vacation by the trustees, beginning June 15. Dr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium, has been released from his duties for the same period and has been appointed acting director of the museum during the absence of Director Bumpus, which will probably extend to December 15, 1910. Professor Raymond C. Osburn, Ph.D. (Columbia), of the Biological Department of Barnard College, has been recalled from Naples to take charge of the aquarium, during the same period, under Director Townsend's general supervision. It is the intention of the Zoological Society to make Professor Osburn a permanent member of the aquarium staff.

DR. HARVEY W. CUSHING, of the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed chief of the surgical staff of the new Peter Bent Brigham Hospital at Cambridge, Mass. The hospital, which is the teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School, will not be completed until about 1912. The fund has been accumulating for about twenty-five years and the original bequest of \$1,800,000 has grown to about \$8,000,000.

PROFESSOR H. A. EDSON, of the University of Vermont, has resigned, to accept a position in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

DR. THEODORE WHITTELEY has resigned as associate professor of chemistry in Northwestern University to become chief chemist of the